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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: EVALUATION

In-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme

Follow-up report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

A progress report on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme (E/AC.51/1989/5) was considered by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-ninth session.

The present report has been prepared in response to the Committee's request that the Secretary-General present to it at its thirtieth session a revised proposal on the methodology and scheduling of the evaluation of the disarmament programme, originally due for the Committee's consideration in 1991, including methodological considerations that may be relevant in the evaluation of other political programmes, taking into account the views expressed by the Committee at its twenty-ninth session (A/44/16, para. 306).

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INTRODUCTION

1. The progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme (E/AC.51/1989/5) was considered by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) at its twenty-ninth session. 1/ The Committee welcomed the report and the efforts of the Secretary-General to evaluate for the first time a political programme. The Committee recognized that for political programmes a methodology different from that used for other types of programmes would be required, with an emphasis on a qualitative approach and without undue attention to quantitative considerations, and that the evaluation should focus on programmatic activities rather than substantive issues.

2. The present report has been prepared in response to the Committee's request that the Secretary-General present to it at its thirtieth session a revised proposal on the methodology and scheduling of the evaluation of the disarmament programme, originally due for the Committee's consideration in 1991, including methodological considerations that may be relevant in the evaluation of other political programmes, taking into account the views expressed by the Committee at its twenty-ninth session. 2/ Some observations for the evaluation of programmes in the political areas are presented in paragraphs 47 to 61.

3. A checklist for the development of questionnaires or structured interviews on negotiation and deliberation in general appears in annex I.

4. A preliminary review was conducted of recent books and articles on the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, and a summary is presented in annex II. The purpose of the review was, pursuant to regulation 7.1 (b) of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, to enable the Secretariat and Member States to engage in systematic reflections, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the main programmes of the Organization by altering their content and, if necessary, reviewing their objectives. It should be pointed out that those views largely referred to the United Nations in the broadest sense, that is to say, they referred primarily to the role of Governments and generally did not distinguish between that role and the role of the Secretariat (as reflected in the programme budgets and the medium-term plan).

5. Background information on the history and organization of the disarmament programme is given in annex III.

6. The Committee may wish to review the proposals in the present report on issues that are to be addressed by the evaluation study and on the methods for collecting the required data. The proposals are in accordance with evaluation methodology established by the Committee over the past several years and are based on the preliminary findings in the previous progress report and the comments of the Committee thereon. Within this overall framework for the evaluation, inputs were received from the Department for Disarmament Affairs about the planning, implementation and results of its programmes and activities. The recommendations for the conduct of the in-depth evaluation appear in paragraphs 42 to 46.

I. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY AND PHASES OF THE STUDY

A. Purposes of the evaluation

7. In response to the Committee's views on the need to focus on programmatic activities rather than substantive issues, the evaluation of the disarmament programme will address questions related to the role of the Secretariat in terms of programme planning, implementation and results of its activities.

8. The evaluation will seek to determine how efficiently and effectively Secretariat activities respond to the concerns and needs of Governments and other users, to identify possible problems connected with the implementation of those activities, and to make recommendations for adjusting programme design and implementation, including the reorientation, modification, addition or termination of Secretariat activities, if necessary.

9. Since the Department's main responsibilities fall into two large areas - provision of substantive services to Member States and distribution of disarmament information to Governments, intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, research institutions and the general public (its "end-users"), the evaluation study will seek to ascertain how effectively the Department carried out its mandated programme of activities and also the level of utilization of the Department's activities and outputs by those end-users. Some preliminary observations have already been presented in the first progress report (E/AC.51/1989/5, paras. 18-26).

10. In accordance with guidelines established by CPC, the evaluation will be conducted in close collaboration with programme managers during all phases of the evaluation to ensure accuracy of information and data collected for analysis. Data will be collected by means of documentation review (published and unpublished material within the United Nations system, governmental and non-governmental material, professional literature, the media etc.), and survey questionnaires and interviews. As requested by the Committee, the views of Governments will be given precedence.

B. The disarmament programme

11. The disarmament programme appears under the major programme, Political and Security Council affairs activities, in the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 as revised and extended to 1991. 3/ There were originally four subprogrammes, but in response to a recommendation of the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, which was held in 1982 to launch a World Disarmament Campaign, a new subprogramme for activities related to the Campaign was added. 4/

12. The five subprogrammes are:

(a) Deliberation and negotiation (subprogramme 1);

(b) Information on disarmament (subprogramme 2);

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(c) Studies on disarmament (subprogramme 3);

(d) The United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme (subprogramme 4);

(e) World Disarmament Campaign (subprogramme 5).

13. As proposed in the first progress report, because of the overlapping of objectives, activities and user groups covered by subprogrammes 2 to 5, the five subprogrammes will be grouped in the following categories:

(a) Deliberation and negotiation (subprogramme 1);

(b) Information, studies and World Disarmament Campaign (subprogrammes 2, 3 and 5);

(c) Fellowship, training and advisory services (subprogrammes 4 and 5).

14. Following the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, the Secretary-General appointed in 1987 a high-level intra-secretariat task force to foster and co-ordinate the incorporation of disarmament-development perspective in the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system. While the activities of the other organizations will not be included in the evaluation, references will be made to those activities where the Department for Disarmament Affairs has the central responsibility either on its own or as the co-ordinator of contributions to be made by those organizations.

1. Deliberation and negotiation (subprogramme 1) 5/

15. In conformity with the conclusions and recommendations of CPC at its twenty-ninth session, 1/ the evaluation study will not examine the substantive issues, but will examine the effectiveness of the Secretariat in carrying out this subprogramme.

16. Unlike the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social fields, where the Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services (formerly the Office for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) provides the secretariat services, such secretariat services for the intergovernmental machinery in disarmament are provided by the Department for Disarmament Affairs itself. In addition to providing secretariat and administrative services related to the planning, organization and conduct of meetings, the Department provides substantive services that include, inter alia, the preparation and co-ordination of reports, informal working papers and background information, as well as substantive, legal and technical advice and assistance in facilitating the deliberative and negotiating process and in the drafting of articles of agreements or declarations, suggestions, approaches or solutions to problems.

17. Under subprogramme 1, the Department provides administrative and substantive assistance and secretariat services to the disarmament machinery, which includes the following:

(a) First Committee of the General Assembly;

(b) Disarmament Commission and its working groups;

(c) Conference on Disarmament and its subsidiary bodies;

(d) Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference; 6/

(e) Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean. 7/

18. In addition, during the period under review, 1984 to 1989, the Department also provided services to the fifteenth special session of the Assembly, the third special session devoted to disarmament, which took place in 1988; two sessions of the Preparatory Committee for that special session; two sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; one session of the first Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques and one session of its Preparatory Committee; one session of the Preparatory Committee and one session of the Conference itself for the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof; the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development and two sessions of its Preparatory Committee; and a number of ad hoc expert working groups, as well as several working groups within the United Nations system on the relationship between disarmament and development.

19. During the same period, the Department also devised and further developed Procedures for Upholding the Authority of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare (1925 Geneva Protocol) 8/ and maintained an updated list of experts and laboratories required for purposes of investigation of alleged use of chemical weapons and maintained and provided an annual register of information on nuclear-test explosions. These Procedures and list of experts and laboratories are for use by the Secretary-General in carrying out investigations of alleged use of chemical weapons, if and when requested by the Security Council or the General Assembly.

20. The strategy for subprogramme 1, as described in the medium-term plan, was divided into three categories, namely, those activities related to the preparatory phase (planning and organization of meetings, including ad hoc working groups and meetings of officers of legislative organs, preparation of reports, information notes and other background material); those related to the deliberative and negotiating phase (substantive, legal and technical services to disarmament bodies, including, for example, the updating of amendments, revisions, modifications of texts for the deliberations and negotiations); and those related to follow-up and

implementation (monitoring of implementation of multilateral disarmament agreements, follow-up and implementation of General Assembly decisions).

21. In addition, a programme element for activities dealing with the relationship between disarmament and development was included in the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 (see A/42/6, Sect. 2B), in response to recommendations of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, held in 1987. Several activities were undertaken to implement the decisions of the High-level Task Force set up by the Secretary-General for the implementation of the action programme entrusted to him. Activities during that biennium included the convening of ad hoc meetings within the United Nations system on the subject, the maintenance of contacts and regular exchange of publications with research institutes and universities, and advisory functions in setting up curricula and conducting courses in universities, upon request. Those activities will be covered under the other two groupings, namely, information and studies, and training (see paras. 24-41).

(a) Issues to be addressed

22. For subprogramme 1, the issues that will be addressed in the evaluation, if approved by the Committee, are (a) the adequacy of preparatory activities to meet the needs of Governments; (b) the usefulness/effectiveness of the substantive contribution by the Secretariat during the deliberation and/or negotiation process; (c) the adequacy of follow-up activities to meet the needs of Governments; and (d) the adequacy and effectiveness of Secretariat assistance in promoting the signature and ratification of multilateral disarmament agreements and in their monitoring.

(b) Data collection

23. The primary end-users of this subprogramme are government officials attending the various intergovernmental meetings. In addition to desk reviews of published material, within the United Nations system and outside, and bearing in mind the above-mentioned issues to be addressed, it is proposed to:

(a) Submit questionnaires to a representative sample (such as the 1990 membership of CPC) of members of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Disarmament Commission and, separately, to members of the Conference on Disarmament, concerning the effectiveness of the Secretariat's activities, and to solicit their recommendations for strengthening the role of the Secretariat in assisting their deliberations and negotiations. In this connection, CPC may wish to select from those portions of the general checklist proposed for the development of questionnaires or interviews on deliberation and negotiation in the political areas (annex I), that could be adapted to address the issues listed above;

(b) Analyse the responses to those questionnaires and follow-up by interviews with respondents.

2. Information, studies and the World Disarmament Campaign (part of subprogramme 1, subprogrammes 2, 3 and 5) 5/

24. Included in this category of activities are those related to disarmament and development, which appear in the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 under subprogramme 1.

25. It should be noted that arms limitation and disarmament are seen by Member States as questions intimately linked to their security. The publication of reference and information materials in this area, therefore, is a highly sensitive activity requiring a high degree of substantive knowledge and political specialization. The Department is a unique source of factual and objective published reference and information materials on arms limitation and disarmament. To the extent that financial resources allow, its publications are distributed world wide and, for the most part, in six languages. The activities and various differentiated outputs under this category have a broad outreach, with targetted end-users including not only government officials but also non-governmental organizations, the academic community, the media and the general public. Liaison activities, therefore, are also an important component of this category of work of the Department. The two largest and most important groups of recipients are, on the one hand, government officials professionally engaged in arms limitation and disarmament, and, on the other hand, the interested public and non-governmental organizations. It should be noted that the level of participation by non-governmental organizations in activities of the disarmament programme is among the highest of all United Nations programmes (see E/AC.51/1989/5, para. 18). Some findings on the use of United Nations materials by one group of professionals in the field, on press coverage, and on the interest of the general public were included in the first progress report (E/AC.51/1989/5, paras. 18-26).

26. The information activities of the Department of Public Information in the field of disarmament will not be included in the evaluation since those activities fall under a separate programme. However, there will be references to those activities where active involvement of the Department of Disarmament Affairs is required.

27. For the purpose of the evaluation, disarmament "studies" will refer to those that have been specifically requested by the General Assembly and that require endorsement by the Assembly before being issued as sales publications for wider dissemination. Examples of such studies are Reduction of Military Budgets, 9/ The Naval Arms Race, 10/ Study on Deterrence, 11/ Study on the Climatic and Other Global Effects of Nuclear War, 12/ Study on the Economic Consequences of the Arms Race and Military Expenditures. 13/ Those studies are usually prepared by groups of governmental experts or consultant experts appointed by the Secretary-General. The Department provides substantive services to such groups.

28. Reference materials, such as the recurrent publications, the Disarmament Yearbook, the Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements and the Disarmament periodical (which serves as a source of information and a forum for exchange of ideas and concepts with regard to arms limitation, disarmament and security), and reports of meetings on arms limitation and disarmament issues are

also produced by the Department as sales publications. Other publications, such as General Assembly and Disarmament and reports of seminars/conferences on disarmament issues, are issued free of charge to serve as a source of information and education. All these materials are written for the informed reader who wishes to follow issues and developments in depth.

29. Separate outputs provide factual and objective information of a more general nature on a variety of arms limitation and disarmament topics for the purpose of generating public understanding of the issues. These outputs include the "Disarmament Facts" Series, "Disarmament Newsletter", various ad hoc publications and brochures.

30. The World Disarmament Campaign is a global programme for factual and objective information on arms limitation and disarmament. Its primary purposes are to inform and to educate and to generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. The activities and various outputs under this category have a broad outreach, with targeted end-users in the following constituencies: non-governmental organizations, the academic/research community, educational institutions, elected representatives, the media and the public in general. Activities include the provision of information materials, conduct of seminars, special events, participation as lecturers and panelists at meetings organized by non-governmental organizations or educational groups/institutions and inter-agency co-ordination and are reported on each year to the General Assembly. The Department also organizes the annual observance in the First Committee of Disarmament Week as well as the annual Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign, as mandated by Member States.

31. Activities related to the three regional centres in Lomé, Lima and Kathmandu, which are carried out under the World Disarmament Campaign, will not be included in the evaluation as the centres have only recently been established. Activities of the Campaign related to the conduct of internship programmes for graduate students are considered in paragraphs 37 to 41.

32. The Department services the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, which meets annually to advise the Secretary-General on, inter alia, various aspects of studies on disarmament to be made under the auspices of the United Nations and on implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign. The Advisory Board also serves as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), which was established by the General Assembly in 1980 as an autonomous research institution for the purpose of undertaking independent research on disarmament and related problems. The report of the Board and of the Director on activities of the Institute is submitted each year to the General Assembly.

(a) Issues to be addressed

33. In focusing primarily on the publication activities of the Department, the issues that will be addressed, if approved by the Committee, are (a) the adequacy of the design of the activities proposed in the medium-term plan and programme budget in relation to the objectives of the subprogrammes in question; (b) the

extent to which the outputs achieved the required objectives of providing useful information on United Nations and other activities in arms limitation and disarmament to end-users; (c) the adequacy of feedback mechanisms; and (d) the ways in which implementation of the three subprogrammes might be improved, and monitoring and evaluation of activities facilitated.

(b) Data collection

34. In addition to desk reviews of existing material prepared within the United Nations system and outside to determine the assessment by Governments, as the primary end-users, of reference materials produced by the Secretariat, a review of the results of readership surveys that were conducted in 1985 and 1988 by the World Disarmament Campaign will also be undertaken to determine the assessment made by other end-users of the information materials produced under the subprogramme.

35. If further information needed, questionnaires will be prepared or interviews conducted to solicit the views of the end-users on the usefulness and effectiveness of a selected number of the outputs delivered under the three subprogrammes. Attention will be paid to ensuring that the findings are based on a globally and linguistically balanced method of examination.

36. As a follow-up to the preliminary findings on the extent and manner in which disarmament publications are cited and reviewed in the professional literature, questionnaires will be sent to those in the academic/research community on the mailing list to determine how they use publications and to solicit their views on how the Secretariat can improve its contribution to the world academic discussion of disarmament issues.

3. Fellowship, training and advisory services (subprogrammes 4 and 5) 5/

37. The Secretariat conducts two types of training. One, conducted under subprogramme 4 (United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme) is for national public officials. A report on this activity is submitted to the General Assembly each year. The other type of training is conducted under subprogramme 5 (World Disarmament Campaign) for graduate students. Training and advisory services are given to Governments upon their request.

(a) Issues to be addressed

38. The issues to be examined will be (a) the adequacy of training programmes and advisory services and the direction such future activities might take; (b) the extent to which knowledge and training gained are applied; and (c) the level of awareness of such activities, by Governments and others, and the capacity of the Secretariat to meet the needs of users.

(b) Data collection

39. The effectiveness and impact of the training provided by the Secretariat under these subprogrammes will be assessed by means of a questionnaire to fellows. The questionnaire, taking into account those issues, will seek to establish the current

posts of participants, how the training was used, the extent to which they had responsibilities in disarmament since the training programme, and their assessment of the training in retrospect and suggestions for improvement.

40. The views of Governments will be sought on the quality and effectiveness of the fellowship and training programme for their national public officials.

41. The internship programme for graduate students could also be evaluated from data to be collected by means of questionnaires to participants in order to determine the effectiveness of the programme and to find ways to improve the quality and usefulness of experience gained through the programme.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

42. It is proposed that the evaluation study keep to the original schedule so that the final report will be presented to the Committee at its thirty-first session, to be held in 1991.

43. The Committee may wish to endorse the issues to be addressed and the methods for data collection as presented in paragraphs 22 to 23, 33 to 36 and 38 to 41.

44. With regard to annex I, the Committee may wish to select portions of the checklist that may be adapted for the formulation of questionnaires and structured interviews for evaluating subprogramme 1 (see para. 23 (a) above).

45. Should the Committee consider it of value, a more comprehensive review can be conducted of recent books and articles on the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament (see para. 4 above).

46. If the Committee so decides, the review in the previous progress report of computer files of press coverage of disarmament issues addressed by the United Nations, including representative wire services such as TASS, Reuters, Xinhua, Inter-Press Service, will be updated. Again, it is pointed out that press coverage does not generally distinguish between the role of Governments and the role of the Secretariat (as reflected in the programme budgets and the medium-term plan).

III. SOME OBSERVATIONS FOR THE EVALUATION OF PROGRAMMES IN THE POLITICAL AREAS

47. In the discussion at its twenty-ninth session of the progress report on the evaluation of the disarmament programme, CPC concluded that "for political programmes a methodology different from that used for other types of programmes would be required, with an emphasis on a qualitative approach and without undue attention to quantitative considerations". 14/ The CPC requested that the present report include "methodological considerations that could be applied in the evaluation of other political programmes". 15/

48. In the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, and extended to 1991, the programmes in the political areas comprise the following:

(a) Political and Security Council affairs activities, covering activities related to the Security Council, peaceful uses of outer space, apartheid, and disarmament (chap. 1 of the medium-term plan);

(b) Special political affairs (peace-keeping activities in the Middle East, Cyprus and the states of Jammu and Kashmir), special political questions and special mandates (Palestinian rights) (chap. 2 of the medium-term plan);

(c) Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization, covering activities in trusteeship, decolonization, Namibia and political affairs (fact-finding and good offices - Kampuchea, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), East Timor, Western Sahara) (chap. 4 of the medium-term plan).

49. In addition to the General Assembly, the intergovernmental bodies that deal with the issues covered by those programmes include:

(a) Security Council, its committees and commissions;

(b) Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

(c) The disarmament intergovernmental machinery (see sect. I.B above);

(d) Trusteeship Council;

(e) Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(f) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;

(g) Special Committee against Apartheid and other bodies concerned with this issue.

50. Unlike the situation for most programmes in the economic and social areas, none of the specialized intergovernmental bodies in the political area reviewed the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 (extended to 1991) or the programme budgets covering the four bienniums of the plan. The responsibility for detailed review of the programmatic activities in the political areas has therefore rested solely with the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

51. A central problem for programme planning in the political area is that, as stated in the medium-term plan, "The scope of the political activities of the United Nations does not lend itself to precise projection aiming at a definite orientation since much will depend upon the international situation at a given time and also upon unpredictable political developments in the various regions of the world". 16/

52. Because of this fundamental difficulty, the texts of medium-term plans and programme budgets for programmes in the political areas contain disclaimers such as "It would not be appropriate to speculate on the course of events and future Security Council decisions beyond a restatement of the fundamental goals of the United Nations under the Charter".

53. Many of the uses made by Member States of the Secretariat's services, particularly informal consultative services on sensitive issues, do not generate publicly available evidentiary material such as official reports, and rarely can their results be clearly and explicitly attributed to the Secretariat. Yet those Secretariat services can be quite substantial in terms of usefulness in responding to the needs of Governments. Those subprogrammes where such informal consultative services constitute the most important activities cannot be subject to external evaluation.

54. Nevertheless many activities, such as those undertaken in the programmes on disarmament, peaceful uses of outer space, apartheid and Palestinian rights, contain relatively clear objectives and strategies. Where such activities do not differ substantially from those undertaken in other major programmes, evaluation methodologies already developed may be appropriate. Activities in that category include monitoring, data collection, research and analysis, servicing of intergovernmental machinery, advisory services, seminars, training and dissemination of information.

55. Other activities carried out under the political programmes, such as those related to deliberation and negotiation, peace-keeping operations, the provision of good offices, mediation and the fact-finding missions associated with such activities, may differ significantly from those which have been evaluated to date in view of the political constraints and so may require different approaches. Even here, however, it should be borne in mind that negotiations aimed at reaching agreement on international instruments (codes of conduct, conventions, treaties etc.), mediation and the provision of good offices in the economic, social and humanitarian programmes also have similar political constraints.

56. A different approach for evaluating those activities that have such political constraints, whether in programmes in the political areas or in programmes in the economic, social and humanitarian areas, is considered necessary because of the close interplay between Member States and the Secretariat and of the difficulty in isolating Secretariat action in order to evaluate it alone. For evaluating activities associated with negotiation and deliberation, for example, reference has already been made to the checklist for the development of questionnaires where factors under Secretariat reponsibility, factors for which the Secretariat is partially responsible and factors wholly within the responsibility of Member States are addressed (see paras. 15-23 and annex I).

57. It may therefore be concluded that a different approach to the conduct of evaluation is needed only in terms of the activity and not in terms of the subject-matter.

58. At the same time, the current medium-term plan of the United Nations encompasses the objectives of both Member States and the Secretariat. Thus, two parallel courses are charted: the role of the Governments, especially in intergovernmental action, and the role of the Secretariat. In this connection it should be noted that references to the programmes of the United Nations in the press, in the professional literature, by the general public and by the Secretary-General in his annual reports on the work of the Organization do not usually distinguish the work of the Secretariat from that of intergovernmental bodies. As already pointed out, some activities require joint responsibility, such as those related to deliberation and negotiation, while others are clearly the sole responsibility of the Secretariat.

59. In view of the role of Governments and the role of the Secretariat, the scope of an in-depth evaluation requires careful consideration, since the scope would determine the kind of data to be collected and the source of that data. Future evaluations could therefore cover either the effectiveness of the work of the Secretariat, or of the entire programme.

60. An evaluation of United Nations programmes in all sectors, including the political areas, could therefore be undertaken according to one of the following two options:

(a) Option A: an examination only of the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of activities of the Secretariat as specified in the medium-term plan and programme budgets. Data collection would involve:

(i) Use of the Secretariat objectives in the medium-term plan as the basis of the evaluation;

(ii) Desk review of those aspects of resolutions and documentation within the United Nations system that pertain to Secretariat actions;

(iii) Questionnaires to and interviews with end-users (Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, institutions, scholars etc.) to solicit their views on the quality and effectiveness of Secretariat outputs;

(iv) Obtaining the views of non-governmental organizations on the activities of the Secretariat;

(v) Review of the professional literature for views on activities of the Secretariat;

(vi) Review of press coverage for views on activities of the Secretariat;

(vii) Review of the interest of the general public in those activities;

(b) Option B: an examination of the effectiveness of the entire programme, including the role of intergovernmental bodies, under consideration. Data collection would involve:

(i) All steps listed in option A, above;

(ii) Using the intergovernmental objectives of a programme or subprogramme as the "standards against which its relevance, effectiveness and impact will be assessed", as required by programme planning rule 106.1;

(iii) A desk review of appropriate resolutions and documentation within the United Nations system to examine, inter alia, the functioning of intergovernmental machinery;

(iv) If necessary, additional information gathered from replies to questionnaires sent to Member States to determine their views on, inter alia, the effectiveness of the intergovernmental machinery;

(v) Interviews with delegates on the effectiveness of, inter alia, the intergovernmental machinery;

(vi) Obtaining the views of non-governmental organizations on the intergovernmental machinery;

(vii) Review of the professional literature on United Nations programmes;

(viii) Review of press coverage of the programme;

(ix) Review of the interest of the general public.

61. The Committee may wish to consider those two options and advise the Secretariat on the conduct of in-depth evaluations in the future.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/44/16), paras. 299-307.

2/ Ibid., para. 306.

3/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6 and corrigendum); and ibid., Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/43/6).

4/ Ibid., Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No.6 (A/39/6 and corrigendum), chap. 1.

5/ See also the first progress report (E/AC.51/1989/5, paras. 29-30).

6/ Although the General Assembly, in its resolution 42/41 of 30 November 1987, renewed the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference, the Ad Hoc Committee has held no meetings since 1988.

Notes (continued)

7/ The Department of Political and Security Council Affairs has the primary responsibility for servicing the Committee, while the Department for Disarmament Affairs provides substantive support.

8/ League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.

9/ United Nations publication (Sales No. 86.IX.2).

10/ United Nations publication (Sales No. 86.IX.3).

11/ United Nations publication (Sales No. 87.IX.2).

12/ United Nations publication (Sales No. 89.IX.1).

13/ United Nations publication (Sales No. 89.IX.2).

14/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/44/16), para. 301.

15/ Ibid., para. 306.

16/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6 and corrigendum), para. 1.1.

ANNEX I

Checklist for development of questionnaires or structured interviews on negotiation and deliberation

(To be adapted as appropriate; for completion by a representative sample of participants of intergovernmental bodies in the political areas)

1. Please rate the following aspects of the Secretariat's servicing of the (name of body; session; dates):

(a) Pre-session servicing

(i) Documentation (list of reports)

- Timely issuance

- Information: up-to-date
  accurate
  adequate

- Analysis: historical background
  technically sound (e.g. forecasts and other calculations)
  clarification of issues
  objectivity
  use of conclusions and recommendations, as common reference for discussion or negotiation

- Overall quality

(ii) Planning and organization of meeting

(iii) Conference services (editing, translation, distribution)

(b) In-session servicing

(i) Adequacy of substantive advice provided by Secretariat

(ii) Adequacy of technical advice on procedures and organization of work

(iii) Quality of conference services (editing, translation, interpretation, distribution)

(iv) Adequacy of physical facilities

2. How do you rate the outcome of this session in terms of:

- Success/failure with respect to main objective

- Positive/negative effects of the meeting

3. What are the main factors contributing to your assessment in response to question two of the outcome of deliberations and negotiations in this session, and how would you rate them in order of importance:

(a) Factors under Secretariat responsibility

Pre-session servicing

- Documentation
- Planning and organization of meeting
- Conference services

(b) Factors for which Secretariat is partially responsible

In-session servicing

- Organization of work: bureau meetings
  working committees or drafting groups
  informal consultations

- Duration of meeting

- Agenda

- Rules of procedure

- Agreement on definitions and concepts of subject under discussion

- Maintenance of pressure to meet deadlines

- Positive atmosphere

- Impact of specific personalities

- Keeping channels of communication open

- Facilitating the procedural as well as substantive aspects related to the deliberating and negotiating process.

(c) Factors wholly within the responsibility of Member States

- Establishment of priorities for discussion

- Readiness of delegates to make compromises

- Expertise of delegates

- Substantive leadership of officers of the meeting in forging compromises

- Action of specific groups: unity of views
  continuing pressure

- Positive political climate

4. How would you rate the effectiveness of the intergovernmental machinery in this session, in terms of:

- Concentration on substantive rather than procedural questions

- Ability to solve problems raised as procedural differences

- Ability to solve substantive differences

- Linking multilateral and bilateral negotiations

5. How would you rate the importance of the role of non-governmental organizations as a factor in the outcome of the session?

ANNEX II

Preliminary review of books and articles published in the period 1982-1987 on the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament

1. The articles and books reviewed are those specifically dealing with the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. General and specific discussions of disarmament unrelated to the United Nations are not included. Hence, the articles and books covered are a very small part of the vast and varied literature on disarmament. The bibliographies on which the review was based were provided by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the library of the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

2. Some articles from Disarmament: A Periodic Review by the United Nations are included. Those articles, however, are only those by authors not affiliated with the United Nations at the time the article was written. Articles in other publications by authors who at the time of writing were United Nations delegates have also been excluded.

3. Approximately half of the entries are from journals, two are complete books, and the remainder are from edited volumes, including one published by UNITAR. The journals represented in the review are Disarmament, Bulletin of Peace Proposals, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Vereinte Nationen, Review of International Affairs, IPW Berichte, ADIU Report, and Etudes internationales.

4. Many of the articles are quite short. Some, such as the papers from the Byers and Ing volume, a collection of papers presented at a conference sponsored by the York University Research Programme in Strategic Studies, are quite detailed and sophisticated. Others are less so.

5. The review is limited to recent work; with only two exceptions, the works date from 1982 to 1987.

Nature of deliberations on disarmament in United Nations bodies

6. In discussing United Nations disarmament activities most writers (e.g., Adeniji 1985, Beker 1985, Bloomfield and Cleveland 1978, Bougrov 1987, Bruns 1984, Goldblat 1987, Mahfouz 1975, Petrovsky 1984, Poulose 1987, Reford 1982, Ruth 1986, Suter 1985), regardless of whether they delivered a positive or negative assessment, emphasized the importance of United Nations involvement in disarmament.

7. Quite often it was stressed that the United Nations multilateral forum provided non-nuclear and developing countries a voice in disarmament deliberations (Adeniji 1985, Byers and Ing 1982, Ing and Byers 1982, Maynes 1983, Petrovsky 1984, Poulose 1987).

8. Authors also stressed that while United Nations resolutions and deliberations might not have binding force, they did serve a norm-setting function, often carried

"moral" weight and could eventually lead to the codifying of principles (Bloomfield and Cleveland 1978, Bougrov 1987, Bruns 1984, Byers and Ing 1982, Goldblat 1986, Kapur 1982, Maynes 1983, Petrovsky 1984).

9. However, most authors also noted the lack of success of United Nations disarmament activities (Adeniji 1985, Beker 1985, Bougrov 1987, Bruns 1984, Byers and Ing 1982, Goldblat 1987, Purver 1982, Reford 1982, Suter 1985). As Byers and Ing (1982:7-8) put it, the United Nations record "is discouraging - even dismal."

10. Many authors stressed general factors, such as the political climate, lack of political will, and States acting in national rather than international interests, as impeding United Nations progress in disarmament (Adeniji 1985, Beker 1985, Bailey 1985, Bougrov 1987, Bruns 1984, Goldblat 1986, Ing and Byers 1982, Klein 1985, Mahfouz 1975, Poulose 1987, Suter 1985). In addition, responsibility for impeding progress was often attributed to one or both of the super-Powers (Adeniji 1985, Beker 1985, Bougrov 1987, Bruns 1984, Byers and Ing 1982, Goldblat 1986, Ing and Byers 1982, Kapur 1982, Klein 1985, Maazoun 1986). However, authors also noted certain technical and practical issues that had impeded progress (Beker 1985, Bloomfield and Cleveland 1978, Bruns 1984, Petrovsky 1984, Poulose 1987, Trapp 1986). For example, the principle of verification has been called "the most thorny problem in disarmament negotiations" (Poulose 1987:398) and a "controversial area of the negotiations" on chemical weapons (Trapp 1986:499). The difficulties of negotiating among so many parties, especially if the requisite technical knowledge is lacking, was also pointed out (Beker 1985, Bloomfield and Cleveland 1978, Petrovsky 1984).

Results of United Nations deliberations: treaties and agreements

11. In discussing specific arms control or disarmament treaties and agreements, authors (Beker 1985, Purver 1982, Reford 1982, Suter 1985) took note of the lack of treaties and agreements negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations. Authors stressed that the major agreements were concluded outside the United Nations (Beker 1985, Buteux 1982, Reford 1982).

12. In addition to noting the lack of agreements, authors (Adeniji 1985, Ing and Byers 1982, Jack 1984, Klein 1985, Leu 1983, Petrovsky 1984, Purver 1982, Reford 1982) also commented on problems of concluding negotiations, signature and adherence to existing agreements, and expanding the scope of agreements.

United Nations machinery for disarmament

General Assembly

13. Authors (Bailey 1985, Goldblat 1987) have pointed out that the effectiveness (in serving a norm-setting function, influencing negotiations and public opinion etc.) of the annual debates in the General Assembly and of its resolutions was undermined by the number and type of resolutions. In discussing the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, held in 1978, authors

generally noted that the session ended with a Final Document adopted by consensus and many (Adeniji 1985, Bougrov 1987, Byers 1982, Goldblat 1987, Purver 1982, Suter 1985) cited that as a successful accomplishment of the session. It was also noted, however, that while producing a Final Document was an accomplishment, the process and the document itself were not without problems. The lack of implementation of the Final Document of the first special session and the inability of the 1982 second special session to give impetus to the disarmament process were highly criticized (Adeniji 1985, Byers 1982, Goldblat 1987, Maynes 1983, Purver 1982, Suter 1985). The second special session was especially criticized for discussing points agreed upon in the earlier session and for not producing a final document (Adeniji 1985, Byers 1982, Goldblat 1987, Maynes 1983). The political climate at the time of the second session was invoked to explain the lack of progress (Byers 1982, Suter 1985). In addition, the "rhetoric" and "denunciations" inside the session were also noted. Suter (1985:56-57) also argued that at the second special session the General Assembly was trying to go beyond a non-binding declaration of intent to a specific agreement for implementing a declaration of intent, which is a task the General Assembly has had, in Suter's words (1985:56-57) "far less success in achieving."

Conference on Disarmament

14. The Geneva-based Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, renamed the Committee on Disarmament in 1979 and then the Conference on Disarmament in 1984, was restructured and its ties to the United Nations strengthened as a result of the first special session devoted to disarmament. The agreed upon changes in this negotiating body were succinctly summarized by Purver (1982:41). He writes, the changes were "to expand the membership to include all of the nuclear-weapon States as well as 32 to 35 other States; to replace the super-Powers' co-chairmanship with a monthly rotation among all the members; to strengthen the link with the United Nations by having the Secretary-General's personal representative become secretary of the Committee; to allow for participation by States not members of the Committee (through the submission of written proposals or working documents, as well as by joining in the discussion); and to provide for greater openness of the proceedings by opening plenary meetings to the public 'unless otherwise decided' ...".

15. Some authors (Adeniji 1985, Goldblat 1987) cited the re-structuring of the Conference as a positive development. Nonetheless, Goldblat (1987:381) noted that the output of the Conference remained "sluggish," and other authors (Adeniji 1985, Beker 1985, Ing and Byers 1982, Stosic 1987) criticized the effectiveness of the Conference. In addition to arguments that the Conference was ineffective because of super-Power control and/or tensions (Beker 1985, Goldblat 1987), procedure and numbers were cited as problems (Beker 1985, Goldblat 1987). Jack (1984:88) proposed that the Conference should become "a full-fledged United Nations body," which would allow "the agenda of that body to be decided, if necessary, by vote and not veto."

Disarmament Commission

16. As a result of the first special session devoted to disarmament, the defunct Disarmament Commission was reinstituted. Composed of all Member States, it is part of the deliberative machinery. Compared to the discussion in the professional literature on the Conference on Disarmament, references and discussions of the Disarmament Commission are slight.

Disarmament fellowship programme

17. The Disarmament fellowship programme was instituted as a result of the first special session devoted to disarmament and expanded after the second special session. The programme is designed to train young diplomats, especially those from developing countries, in disarmament issues. As Adeniji (1985:10) noted, it is a popular programme; although, as Purver (1982:54) pointed out in 1982, it was then too early to assess the long-range "payoffs" of the programme.

Non-governmental organizations

18. Relatively little discussion, with the exception of Whittle (1982) and Jack (1985), directly concerned the relationship of non-governmental organizations on disarmament with United Nations activities. While it was noted that "the active role played by NGOs (at the first special session) was welcomed by many as a 'novel and encouraging development'", (Purver 1982:43) and that the session concluded that non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to work in mobilizing public opinion (Barnaby 1982), the ambiguous and ambivalent relationship with NGOs was also pointed out (Jack 1985, Purver 1982, Whittle 1982). Purver (1982:43) noted that the attendance of delegations was low on the days that representatives of non-governmental organizations addressed the special session.

Specialized agencies

19. Few authors discussed the role of the specialized agencies in disarmament. However Goldblat (1987:379-380) noted that several specialized agencies (such as International Atomic Energy Agency) are involved, in one way or another, in arms-control-related activities, and that their potential had not been exhausted.

Information and publicity

20. Numerous authors (Barnaby 1982, Bougrov 1987, Jack 1985, Reford 1982, Ruth 1986, Suter 1985) stressed that an important aspect of United Nations activity in disarmament was that of education and of generating public opinion. The World Disarmament Campaign (WDC; an outcome of the second special session), United Nations studies and United Nations sessions and resolutions were cited most often as the vehicles through which these goals could be accomplished (Adeniji 1985, Bougrov 1987, Goldblat 1987, Jack 1985, Maynes 1983, Reford 1982, Ruth 1986, Suter 1985). Moreover, it was argued that in fact it is public opinion that is quite decisive for "successful" disarmament and the United Nations should increase its efforts in this direction (Barnaby 1982, Bougrov 1987, Goldblat 1987). However,

Jack (1985) and Purver (1982) stated that United Nations activities had not necessarily served to generate public opinion. It was also noted that the public - and even disarmament experts - were not aware of United Nations activities (Barnaby 1982, Beker 1985). As Goldblat (1987) and Byers (1982) pointed out, United Nations disarmament studies might be helpful, nonetheless, in informing delegates on issues currently under debate.

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ANNEX III

Background to the disarmament programme

A. General situation in the area of arms limitation and disarmament

1. The combined efforts of Governments, both multilateral and bilateral, particularly within the existing disarmament bodies and through regional arrangements, have resulted in agreements on various multilateral arms limitation and disarmament measures. Those agreements are:

(a) The 1959 Antarctic Treaty;

(b) The 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water (partial test-ban Treaty);

(c) The 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (outer space Treaty);

(d) The 1967 Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco);

(e) The 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (non-proliferation Treaty);

(f) The 1971 Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof (sea-bed Treaty);

(g) The 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (biological weapons Convention);

(h) The 1977 Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (ENMOD Convention);

(i) The 1979 Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Agreement on celestial bodies);

(j) The 1981 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (Convention on inhuman weapons);

(k) The 1986 South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga).

2. In 1969 the General Assembly, by its resolution 2602 (XXIV) E of 16 December 1969, declared the 1970s as the first Disarmament Decade and called

upon Governments to intensify their efforts for effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and to nuclear disarmament and the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction, and for a treaty on general and complete disarmament under effective international control. It also recommended that consideration be given to channelling a substantial part of the resources freed by disarmament measures to promote the economic development of developing countries.

3. World military expenditures, however, continued to increase. While nuclear-weapon States and other major military Powers accounted for a large portion of those expenditures, the military spending of countries outside the two main military alliances was also rising. The arms race was thus becoming more dangerous, more complex and increasingly a world-wide phenomenon.

4. The General Assembly, in its resolution 31/189 B of 21 December 1976, decided to hold a special session devoted entirely to disarmament. That special session, the tenth special session of the Assembly, held in 1978, was intended to set a new course in international affairs in the field of disarmament and arms limitation and turn States away from the nuclear and conventional arms race. It was the largest, most representative meeting of nations ever gathered to consider the question of disarmament.

5. The Final Document of the Tenth Special Session (resolution S-10/2 of 30 June 1978) stated in paragraph 114 that the United Nations had a central role and primary responsibility in the field of disarmament. It also contained specific measures intended to strengthen the machinery that dealt with disarmament issues within the United Nations system, including the following: the General Assembly should remain the main deliberative organ of the United Nations in the field of disarmament (para. 115); the revived Disarmament Commission, composed of all States Members, should be a deliberative body, a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly (para. 118 (a)); the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament should become the Committee on Disarmament (renamed the Conference on Disarmament in 1984) as a single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of limited size taking decisions on the basis of consensus, reporting annually to the General Assembly (para. 120).

6. The twelfth special session of the General Assembly, the second special session devoted to disarmament, was held in 1982 to discuss disarmament issues but it was not able to reach consensus on any specific course of action. It noted that the 1978 Final Document remained largely unimplemented and that the arms race, in particular the nuclear-arms race, had assumed more dangerous proportions and global military expenditures had increased sharply (A/S-12/32, para. 59). The Assembly again stressed the need for further strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and enhancing the effectiveness of the disarmament machinery. The Assembly agreed on the launching of the World Disarmament Campaign and the continuation and expansion of the United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament.

7. The fifteenth special session, the third special session devoted to disarmament, was held in 1988. The conclusion in 1987 of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (the INF Treaty)

and intensive negotiations between the two major Powers to reach a further agreement on substantial cuts in strategic nuclear weapons were seen as auspicious for the outcome of the special session, which was to focus on multilateral aspects of the disarmament process and global strengthening of international peace and security. However, despite the positive climate, the session was not able to adopt a consensus document. The climate did, though, contribute to a certain narrowing of differences and to laying a positive foundation for the international community to build on in the months and years to come.

8. The General Assembly, in its resolution 43/77 B of 7 December 1988, considered that the special session served the purpose of increasing awareness of the areas where future efforts should be concentrated, and called upon all Member States to contribute to the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, as it provided the most appropriate forum for all Member States to contribute actively and collectively to the consideration and resolution of disarmament issues that had a bearing on their security.

B. Intergovernmental machinery

9. The machinery that deals with disarmament and related international security issues within the United Nations framework was originally established by the Charter of the United Nations and subsequent decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Over the years, it has undergone various changes which have reflected the prevailing circumstances in international relations at a given time.

10. Within the United Nations framework, the General Assembly, through its First Committee, is the permament forum for disarmament deliberations and the main source of both initiatives and recommendations by the international community on the whole spectrum of disarmament-related issues. Counting only its resolutions on disarmament, the First Committee has submitted approximately 20 per cent of all resolutions adopted by the General Assembly during the period 1984 to 1989, as may be seen in the table.

Table. Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, 1984-1989

	First Committee resolutions on disarmament	Total resolutions
1984	63	338
1985	66	352
1986	67	311
1987	63	318
1988	67	324
1989	57	331

11. The original bodies of the United Nations established by the General Assembly and the Security Council in 1946 and 1947, respectively, in the field of disarmament were the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments. Their purpose was to ensure that atomic energy would be used only for peaceful purposes and that armaments and armed forces would be generally regulated and reduced under an international system of control and inspection. In view of the lack of progress, the General Assembly in 1952 consolidated the two commissions into a single Disarmament Commission with the task of preparing proposals for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments in a co-ordinated, comprehensive programme by stages. In 1958, the Commission was enlarged to include all Member States: however, only two further sessions were held, in 1960 and 1965. The 1978 Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly re-established the Commission as a deliberative body and a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, whose function was to consider and make recommendations on various specific problems in the field of disarmament and to follow up the relevant decisions and recommendations of the special sessions devoted to disarmament. The Commission reports annually to the General Assembly.

12. From 1959, the United Nations began to pursue disarmament efforts through two distinct, yet parallel approaches. The General Assembly acknowledged the need to concentrate on more far-reaching objectives and decided to place on its agenda an item entitled "General and complete disarmament under effective international control"; agreements on partial disarmament measures were pursued concurrently with the effort to elaborate plans for general and complete disarmament.

13. At the same time, disarmament matters were given renewed impetus within bilateral frameworks. The Ten-Nation Committee on Disarmament was established in 1959, with East and West represented in equal numbers. Following the agreement reached between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on principles for disarmament negotiations (A/4879), the General Assembly, in its resolution 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, welcomed their joint statement and endorsed the agreement on the establishment of a Disarmament Committee. The General Assembly requested that Committee to report on negotiations to reach agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control. That Committee, known as the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, was established in 1962 and included eight non-aligned members. In 1969 it became the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, when its membership was further expanded to 26 nations; in 1975, its membership was expanded to 31. In the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the Assembly recognized the continuing requirement for a single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of limited size taking decisions on the basis of consensus; and welcomed the agreement reached during that session on the increase in the Committee's membership, to 40 States (resolution S-10/2, para. 120).

14. The name of the Committee was changed to "Conference on Disarmament" in 1984. The Conference has a unique relationship with the United Nations. It defines its own rules of procedure and develops its own agenda, taking into account the recommendations made by the General Assembly. It also reports to the Assembly annually. The Secretary-General of the Conference is appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Conference; the budget of the

Conference is included in that of the United Nations; and the Conference is provided with technical and substantive servicing by the Department for Disarmament Affairs. The Conference meets in Geneva, usually from early February to late April and early July to late August. In the past two years, as the work involved with the draft convention on chemical weapons has intensified, consultations have also been conducted outside those periods.

15. In addition to those intergovernmental bodies, there are also review conferences of parties to treaties and conventions and ad hoc committees established by the General Assembly to deal with specific disarmament matters, which the Department also services.

C. Department for Disarmament Affairs

16. The role of the United Nations Secretariat in disarmament matters derives from the general functions of the Secretary-General as defined in the Charter and developed over the years through the General Assembly and other bodies. The organizational unit within the Secretariat dealing with disarmament matters was originally the Disarmament Affairs Division, which was enlarged in 1977 to become the Centre for Disarmament within the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs. In response to General Assembly resolution 37/99, the Centre for Disarmament was transformed, on 1 January 1983, into a Department headed by an Under-Secretary-General, reporting directly to the Secretary-General. The Department is located in New York, with a branch in Geneva. In response to recommendation 20 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, a/ the Department was reorganized to improve its assistance and services to Member States, with particular emphasis on developing the Department's capacity to acquire, store and disseminate information on disarmament issues for the benefit of Member States and other users.

17. The activities for which the Department has responsibility are described in section 2B of the programme budget. The resources associated with the disarmament programme during the period 1984 to 1989 were approximately $33.3 million (regular budget) and $5.8 million (extrabudgetary).

18. Neither the medium-term plan nor the programme budgets for disarmament activities are reviewed by a specialized intergovernmental body in the field of disarmament. However, annual reports on the programme of work for subprogrammes 4 (fellowship, training and advisory services) and 5 (World Disarmament Campaign) are submitted to the General Assembly.

Notes

a/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49).

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Thirtieth session
7 May-8 June 1990
Agenda item 4 (d)

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: EVALUATION

In-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme

Follow-up report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Page 12, paragraph 48 (b)

Replace the existing text by the following:

(b) Special political affairs and special missions (peace-keeping activities in the Middle East, Cyprus and military observation in the State of Jammu and Kashmir), special political questions and special mandates (Palestinian rights) (chap. 2 of the medium-term plan);

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